

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 00692 301833Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 301820Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7877

S E C R E T GENEVA 0692

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR D/HA - SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ICRC ASSISTANCE IN ISRAELI BODY EXCHANGE

REF: GENEVA 0076 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONVERS, HAVING RETURNED FROM TRIP TO CAIRO, TEL AVIV AND DAMASCUS, INFORMED MISOFF TODAY THAT POSITIONS ON EXCHANGE OF EGYPTIAN DETAINEES FOR ISRAELI BODIES HAD HARDENED CONSIDERABLY. EGYPTIAN WAR MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM EGYPT WOULD NOT RETURN ISRAELI BODIES, INCLUDING TWO KILLED IN 1955, UNTIL ALL RPT ALL EGYPTIAN DETAINEES HAD BEEN RELEASED BY ISRAEL, AS HE STATED WAS PROVIDED FOR IN ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. CONVERS SAID MINISTER'S STATEMENT LED HIM BELIEVE EGYPTIANS HAVE AT LEAST SOME KNOWLEDGE WHERE NINE ISRAELI BODIES IN DISPUTE ARE BURIED.

2. CONVERS SAID HE CONFIDENT THAT ISRAELIS WOULD PROCEED WITH RELEASE OF TWENTY EGYPTIAN DETAINEES THROUGH ICRC IN NEAR FUTURE. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT PERES HAD TOLD HIM GOI WOULD NOT RELEASE REMAINDER (APPROXIMATELY THIRTEEN) UNTIL ALL ISRAELI BODIES ARE RETURNED. CONVERS SAID PERES TOLD HIM HIS GOVERNMENT CERTAIN EGYPTIANS IN POSSESSION OF NINE REMAINS IN

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QUESTION.

3. CONVERS SAID ICRC PLANS NO FURTHER MOVES IN MATTER
FOR PRESENT AND/OR UNTIL ONE SIDE OR OTHER MAKES MOVE.
BUT, OTHER THAN FOR RELEASE OF TWENTY, HE FEELS THAT
SITUATION NOW AT ANOTHER IMPASSE.DALE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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